THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The Government of Maharashtra has intimated that action for preparation of Master Plan for the establishment of the Zoological Park/Biodiversity garden has been initiated. The State Government have further informed about the sanction for establishment of State Level Authority under the chairmanship of Principal Secretary (Forests) for management and monitoring of the said Park.

(c) It is not possible to indicate any time- frame for setting up of the said zoological Park.

Leakage of gas in Madhya Pradesh

1091. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the leakage of gas at the villages in Raisen district of Madhya Pradesh affecting several hundreds people; and

(b) if so, what is the nature of gas, its source and the action taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE W THE MINISTRYOF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) According to the information made available by Madhya Pradesh Pollution Control Board, the Government of Madhya Pradesh had constituted a one member high power State Level Committee to enquire into the incidence of gas leakage on 14th October, 2006. The enquiry report of this Committee revealed the following:

(i) Three villages namely Mendua, Nayapura and Kirat Nagar were affected. No loss of life was recorded.

(ii) The grab sampling of ambient air did not confirm the presence of chlorine, ammonia, hydrogen chloride, nitrogen oxide, sulphur dioxide, hydrogen sulphide and hydrogen chloride.

(iii) The Committee ruled out the possibility of any gas leakage from the storages of gases from any of the industry. The exact gas and the source could not be identified. The report suggested short term

leakage from a mobile source as a possible source of g"as leakage. The released gas was nasal and eye irritant and caused nausea and headache for a short period.

(iv) The District Administration immediately initiated the rescue operations in the affected villages. The affected villagers were taken to Government Hospitals in Bhopal. 180 patients were given primary treatment on the day of leakage and on the next day, 115 were treated. All of them were allowed to go home as none of them were serious enough to be admitted in the hospital.

Damage to forests due to developmental projects

1092. SHRI PENUMALLIMADHU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the extent of various types of forests submerged/damaged due to the construction of developmental projects in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether the proposed Polavaram project submerges reserve forests as well as wild life sanctuary; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Diversion of 36.485.59 ha. of forest land has been allowed by the Central Government for various developmental projects in Andhra Pradesh since promulgation of the Forest (conservation) Act, 1980.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The proposed project involves diversion of 3267 ha. of forest land. 2933.84 ha. will go under submergence out of which 187 ha falls in Papikonda Wildlife Sanctuary.

Environment impact assessment guidelines

1093. SHRIMATISYEDA ANWARATAIMUR:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state: